



SeafoodTrade Strategy - NOAA Service Account &lt;seafoodtrade.strategy@noaa.gov&gt;

## Re: Announcement: NOAA seeks input from industry and the public on the U.S. Seafood Trade Task Force

1 message

Christinna Lutu-Sanchez &lt;chrissy.lutu@gmail.com&gt;

Sat, Aug 1, 2020 at 10:28 PM

To: Morgan Corey - NOAA Federal &lt;morgan.corey@noaa.gov&gt;, seafoodtrade.strategy@noaa.gov

August 1, 2020

Mr. Jim Sanford

Mr. Drew Lawler

Co-Chairs Seafood Trade Taskforce

U.S. Government

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. In the past few decades that I have been involved in commercial fishing, I have made every effort voluntarily to also participate in councils, committees, panels, etc. created by government(s) federal and local to manage our fisheries. I have learned that many of these processes become just exercises and jobs for many involved, and there is no accountability of the staff or those involved professionally to see many of these recommendations or management actions through. President Trumps effort to strengthen our fisheries is not a huge discovery, it has been the constant song of the U.S. fishermen for decades and NMFS has been fully aware of this. I have read with great interest the many recommendations or comments made to the Seafood Trade Taskforce and there are many excellent specific recommendations submitted including those listed by the WPRFMC. Many of these issues have been outstanding for years and the question is why it takes so long when many of these recommendations would help to strengthen U.S. domestic commercial fisheries. The obstacles are known and have been identified, but the administrators will continue to sit on many of these recommendations because they may not be politically correct to act on (ie. they may be too afraid of possible lawsuits by interest groups) or they will blame budgetary cuts for lack of staff, etc... Meanwhile, U.S. commercial fishermen do not have the luxury of tabling a recommendation until they feel like acting on it. Fishermen must work and produce or their businesses will fail and they cannot feed their families. Fishermen must continue to adhere to all U.S. government regulations and policies everyday (not when they feel like it) or they will be fined or sent a notice of violation. While the U.S. fishermen's interests and/or actions that will support the U.S. fishermen are set-aside, the U.S. national seafood deficit will continue to grow until all of the U.S. commercial fishermen are extinct. In other words, President Trump should declare all U.S. fishermen and U.S. boat owners endangered species to receive all the protections and benefits of the Endangered Species Act. After reading President Trump's Executive Order and many of the comments, I humbly submit my own simple suggestions as this important taskforce starts to review and formulate recommendations:

- 1) Depoliticize the management of U.S. fisheries and make all administrators and staff accountable for the timeliness and effectiveness of their actions as their actions directly impact the lives of thousands in U.S. commercial fisheries. Challenges and obstacles faced by U.S. fishermen have been identified and known by administrators/ managers, but solutions are ignored and not timely. The Taskforce should recommend to simplify the management of U.S. fisheries and the process of addressing or solving problems;
- 2) America First – U.S. Fishermen First.
- 3) You can only control yourself. You cannot control others, even though you can influence them. The U.S. cannot control the actions of other countries, even though the U.S. can influence them. I have witnessed one too many international fisheries meetings where the U.S. delegation/ staff spends hours/ weeks/ months planning and carefully deliberating a measure and all its justifications only for one (1) country (usually China) to take a second and say NO, and there goes all that effort. The good news is that the U.S. government has control over managing its own fisheries. The U.S. government should prioritize removing barriers, processes or obsolete regulations that are crippling the U.S. fishing industry. Administrators/ Managers can also prioritize actions that will make U.S. fisheries more competitive globally so that there is a level playing field with foreign vessels when targeting the same species. More importantly, the U.S. government should prioritize support and assistance for industry so that

the U.S. fishing industry will develop and re-grow again to supply more and more of the seafood needs of our nation.

4) America First – U.S. Fishermen First.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christinna Lutu-Sanchez

On Fri, Jul 17, 2020 at 6:09 AM Morgan Corey - NOAA Federal <[morgan.corey@noaa.gov](mailto:morgan.corey@noaa.gov)> wrote:

Hello,

I want to call your attention to the announcement that the Federal Register notice asking for public input on the new Seafood Trade Task Force was published in the FR this past Friday, July 10. The notice invites the U.S. seafood and fishing industry to submit comments and suggestions for the newly-established task force, which will be co-chaired by the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Public input and recommendations will be **accepted through August 1, 2020**.

Details can be found here: <https://www.noaa.gov/news/us-seafood-trade-task-force-seeks-input-from-industry-and-public>. Please respond to Jenni Wallace and me if you have questions.

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**Morgan Corey** (she/her/hers)  
*Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries*  
NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office: (301) 427-8535  
[www.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)



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*"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away" ... Maya Angelou*